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Review of “A Selection of Cases and Other Authorities on Labor Law,” Edited By Francis Sayre

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BOOK REVIEW

A SELECTION OF CASES AND OTHER AUTHORITIES ON LABOR LAW. Edited by Francis Bowes Sayre, Assistant Professor of Law in Harvard University. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1922. 1017 pp.

No better introduction to the subject of labor law could be had than a reading of Professor Sayre's selection of cases. The reader cannot fail soon to realize the multiplicity and the seriousness of the problems involved in the decision of labor cases; and when he has finished the book he will have learned to appreciate Labatt's statement in the preface to his Commentaries on the Law of Master and Servant, that his subject "may, without any exaggeration, be said to enjoy the unenviable distinction of having been the occasion of a larger number of conflicting doctrines than any other branch of the law."

But Professor Sayre's book contains far more than the essentials to a general view of the subject of labor law. The foundations for an understanding of the various subsidiary problems is here as well, in the form of the leading cases, which are cited again and again in all the tracts and treatises on the subject. They transform the phrases "government by injunction," "conspiracy," "coercion," and countless others, from mere inciters of personal feelings based on prejudice to conveyers of definite and vital meaning. The selection of cases is rendered inclusive by sections devoted to the legality of nearly all of the various aims and methods of labor unions and employers, with others which treat of the different forms of State action, including the use of the injunction and labor legislation of all sorts. The historical setting is furnished by excerpts from the principal English labor statutes from 1349 to the present day, together with a few decisions based upon them. A chapter is devoted to the decisions of the Canadian, Australian, and Kansas industrial courts; and modernity in the collection of court decisions is proved by the inclusion of *Truax v. Corrigan*, *United Mine Workers v. Coronado Coal Co.*, and *American Steel Foundries v. Tri-City Central Trades Council*. In the appendix are a number of family and individual standard of living budgets, whose appropriateness in this particular volume is doubtful.

Although Professor Sayre's collection perhaps has its chief value for students of the problem of labor relations viewed from the social standpoint—as is indicated by its inclusion of some non-labor cases bearing upon the legal principles involved in labor cases—it is invaluable also to the lawyer who would see how the various branches of the law interact and help to shape a vital social situation.

R. F. F.